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West Virginia Libraries Awarded Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection

Charleston, WV – Awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA) are improving West Virginians' access to information about Islam and its culture. The organizations awarded the **Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys** to four college libraries and the West Virginia Humanities Council. The colleges are West Virginia Wesleyan College, Marshall University, West Virginia University, and West Liberty University. In order to reach a wide audience, the Humanities Council asked the West Virginia Library Commission to house the Bookshelf and make it available to public, academic and high school libraries across the state.

The Bookshelf addresses the American public's need and desire for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage associated with Islamic civilizations.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf includes the following titles, organized by theme:

American Stories:

- *A Quiet Revolution* by Leila Ahmed
- *Prince Among Slaves* by Terry Alford
- *The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV
- *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel
- *The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam* by G. Willow Wilson

Connected Histories:

- *The House of Wisdom: How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave Us the Renaissance* by Jim Al-Khalili
- *In an Antique Land* by Amitav Ghosh
- *When Asia Was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks Who Created the "Riches of the East"* by Stewart Gordon
- *Leo Africanus* by Amin Maalouf, translated by Peter Sluglett
- *The Ornament of the World* by Maria Rosa Menocal

Literary Reflections

- *Minaret* by Leila Aboulela
- *The Arabian Nights* (anonymous), edited by Muhsin Mahdi, translated by Husain Haddawy
- *The Conference of the Birds* by Farid al-Din Attar, translated by Dick Davis and Afkham Darbandi
- *Dreams of Trespass* by Fatima Mernissi
- *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk, translated by Maureen Freely

Pathways of Faith

- *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan A. C. Brown
- *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life* by Ingrid Mattson
- *The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* by F. E. Peters
- *The Art of Hajj* by Venetia Porter
- *Rumi: Poet and Mystic*, edited and translated by Reynold A. Nicholson

Points of View

- *In the Country of Men* by Hisham Matar
- *Dreams of Trespass* by Fatima Mernissi
- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi
- *House of Stone* by Anthony Shadid
- *Broken Verses* by Kamila Shamsie

Art Architecture and Film

- *The Art of Hajj* by Venetia Porter
- *Islamic Arts* by Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair
- *Islamic Art Spots* (short films designed, written, and presented by D. Fairchild Ruggles, and produced by Twin Cities Public Television)
- *Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World* (2011)
- *Prince Among Slaves* (2007)
- *Koran by Heart* (2011)

The books and films comprising the Bookshelf were selected with the advice of librarians and cultural programming experts, as well as distinguished scholars in the fields of anthropology, world history, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, the history of art and architecture, world literature, Middle East studies, Southeast Asian studies, African studies, and Islamic studies. Each film in the Bookshelf comes with public performance rights, so libraries can host free public screenings.

For information about these new materials, please contact Susan Hayden, Adult Services Consultant, Susan.G.Hayden@wv.gov, (304) 558-3978, ext. 2014.

The **Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys** is a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities, conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association. Major support for the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf was provided by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

The West Virginia Library Commission serves the people of West Virginia and encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians. Find more information at: www.librarycommission.wv.gov.